



# The Miraculous Medal Association Australia

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*Incorporating AMM Sydney, New South Wales & AMM Adelaide, South Australia*

## Reflection :

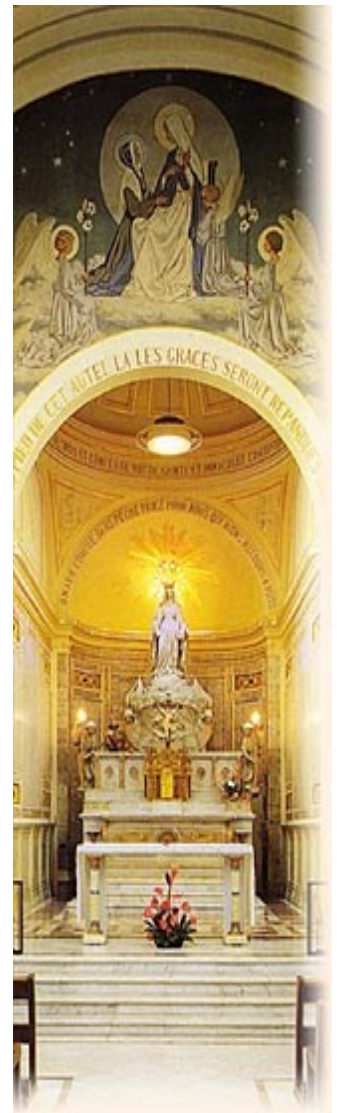
By Fr Kevin Canty, CM (National Director)

The other Sunday we had as our Gospel reading another passage from the Gospel of Luke. As Jesus proceeds to Jerusalem instructing his disciples, the question of the number of people who will enter the kingdom of God is raised. As often in the Gospels, a question is the starting point for Jesus' teaching. Here the question is not answered directly. Instead, the people are encouraged to decide for Jesus. No small effort is required to enter the kingdom. The door is narrow and difficult to enter. A claim to association with Jesus is not enough, repentance is called for, otherwise one may find the door locked. The anguish of those excluded from the kingdom will be all the more unbearable when they see that the great followers of the Lord in the past are gathered in the kingdom of God. They will see, perhaps, unexpectedly, gentiles, those who are not Jews are gathered from all the nations of the world partaking of the banquet in the kingdom of God. Jesus is asked if only a few will be saved. Towards the end of his reply, Jesus indicates that many will enjoy the fullness of life that he offers, not only among the Jews, but people from east and west, from north and south. However for each person the decision lies in our willingness to follow Jesus along the only way that leads to salvation., the way of the cross. This way is narrow in the sense that every other way has to be abandoned if we are to choose it. The need to decide which path to follow is presented clearly in the Book of Deuteronomy. A wonderful passage that challenges its readers to face the big decision, to choose life rather than death. Our journey through life provides us with challenges associated with the seasons of the year. Our experience over the past year or two has been to cope with what many people have experienced, the effects of natural disasters, bush fires, floods, and all that these disasters have inflicted upon so many. But for many of us who were fortunate not to have been in regions that were devastated, we have probably had more ordinary experiences than our every day lives present. But perhaps, our own human experiences, though not as serious as what others may



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are truly our experiences and their effects can produce serious concerns and feelings, that do test our faith. Perhaps we do not have the kind of question that was presented to Jesus, but we can certainly face significant problems and experiences that have us asking 'Why/', or 'how can I change?', or 'how can I choose life, always, during the struggles that I face?'. But, whatever the challenge presented to me, whatever happens that tests my faith, hope and love, I need to remember that Jesus' love and concern for me is as wide as his outstretched arms on the cross, and his presence in my life is always there, and that he is always open to face my question, and to help me live and grow, through what his love provides us, the door, which is truly his way of love, where his many graces and blessings are always available for me. No matter the season of our life, and its challenges, may the Lord strengthen our faith, hope and love, that we will face with confidence the challenges and questions that each day brings us.

**Fr. Kevin Canty, CM.**



Prayer requests and special intentions are remembered during the First Saturday Novena mass. Click on the image of Our Lady to submit your prayer request.

## AMM Annual Retreat Day 2022

By Bianca Kallukaran

### Contemplatives in Action

On the beautiful sunny day of Sunday the 26th of June 2022, the AMM members of the Marsfield community gathered in the Elizabeth House Hall of the Marsfield campus of the Daughters of Charity) for their annual retreat. Fr Kevin Canty, CM, together with the assistance of the AMM Sydney core team and the Daughters of Charity (Marsfield community) delivered the retreat with the theme: Prayer in my life. This theme focused on three keys:

1. What is prayer
2. How to pray as Jesus taught us
3. Putting faith into action  
(with some Vincentian hints)



### A day that started with prayer and ended with prayer

The day began with a talk from Fr Kevin on the importance of prayer. Fr Kevin presented the retreatants with some beautiful quotes one particularly striking as “the devout Christian of the future will either be a ‘mystic’, ‘one who has experienced something’, or they will cease to be anything at all” (Karl Rahner 1977). The need to centre Christ in one’s life was a clear theme from the start which was followed through by a reflective song “You are the Centre” by Margaret Rizza. “You are the centre, Lord, of my life” was the reflective point for retreatants before a short silence to listen to the Spirit drawing us to the love of God.

A quick morning tea was a good refresher before Fr Kevin brought the retreatants into the how’s of prayer. As Fr Kevin pointed out, there are many ways to pray: through the word of God, through song, through intercessory prayer, through acts of charity and list goes on. Particularly characteristic of the Vincentian way was through reflecting on the word of God and applying it to how one lives it out in their daily life - in striving to “follow his [God] great providence in everything” (St Vincent: Documents, vol 2, p.453). A mini booklet entitled “Prayer in my life today” (2003) was circulated to the retreatants where Fr Kevin through these own writings shared with the retreatants true stories of faith lived out and rising above “death, life, angels, principalities, things to come, powers, height, depth, anything else in creation” (Romans 8:28-39). Soon, there was another opportunity for silent reflection and to roam in the surroundings of the beautiful Elizabeth House. Lunch was then served before the afternoon session which was a chance for retreatants to meet

and join in fellowship with one another.



Towards the end of the retreat, there was time for retreatants to share their thoughts from their silent reflections and many shared sentiments of desiring to “see” Christ more in others particularly in the family and friendship circles where conflicts lie in the way faith and religion are viewed. There was also discussion on how to bring others to Christ particularly for the younger generation and how to witness to the faith everyday: at home, at work, at school and other social groups and how to draw oneself closer to Christ at the same time amidst the realities of these aspects of life in living out one’s true vocation. This was then succeeded by a rosary prayer led by Sr Rosa DC. The retreat ended with a Holy Mass at 3pm celebrated by Fr Kevin and this consummated the purpose of the retreat to grow closer to Christ and to bring others too on the journey with Our Blessed Mother.

The AMM members of the Marsfield community acknowledge that this retreat would not be possible without the loving help of the Daughter of Charity (Marsfield Community), Fr Kevin's bold yes to deliver a whole retreat, the loving assistance of AMM members Lita, Maricel, Raul, Sr Rosa, Bianca and all those who helped in any small but extraordinary way. But most importantly our hearts are lifted up in gratitude to Jesus through Mary , for making it all possible after all the challenges offered by the pandemic and in our daily lives.



## AMM Organisation Update

By Gene Dominguez

Last year a Language Regions structure in the International Association was enacted. This structure consists of 7 Regions based on Language, i.e., 1. Spanish Region A, 2. Spanish Region B, 3. Spanish Region C, 4. Europe Region, 5. English Region, 6. French Region, and 7. Asia Region. The purpose of setting up the regions is to promote better communication between the National Associations and International Association.

Initial Meeting of the Asian Region consisting of the Laotian, Thai, Philippines, and Australian National Associations was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2021. It was a success where the National Associations introduced their Leaders, presented their mission and activities, and more importantly the challenges they are facing, primarily how to increase their core members.

With the success and worldwide acceptance of this structure, the use of this model was proposed for the General Assembly and General Council. The current Statutes of the Association call for the election of three Councillors to the International General Council to communicate about their regions. This will now be increased to seven to represent each Language Region. The election of the councillors will begin after the Christmas season, 2022.

The General Assembly that was initially planned to be held in Mexico, will now be conducted virtually from October 14 -17, 2022. This will enable the various National Assemblies to have more participation.



**What:** Eucharist to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

**When:** @10AM on 26 November 2022

**Where:** St. Anthony's Parish Church  
54 Agincourt Road, Marsfield

**ALL WELCOME !**